



Pranahita Revival Tops Cabinet Meet Agenda: P8



Gujarat Titans edge past Punjab Kings in last-over thriller: P7

Scrap GO 7, It Betrays Students, Says KTR: P2



Edge-Of-Seat Wait For Results Across 5 States

West Bengal polls intensify as Opposition alleges state vs Trinamool battle amid heavy CAPF deployment

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

With the Assembly election results expected on Monday, palpable tension and nervous anticipation have gripped key poll-bound states, as voters in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry await the verdict. After a high-decibel campaign, party headquarters, workers, leaders and candidates are on edge, waiting for outcomes that could decisively reshape regional power equations. All eyes are on West Bengal, where the fiercely fought election was branded by the Opposition as a battle between the "Indian State and the Trinamul Congress". In an unprecedented show of force, nearly three lakh personnel from the Central armed police forces (CAPF) were deployed along with an "encounter specialist" from Uttar Pradesh. Backed by the full machinery of the Election Commission, the campaign also witnessed a re-



lentless influx of Union ministers and BJP chief ministers, in addition to a massive inflow of cadres from saffron-ruled states. Not only did Prime Minister Narendra Modi address nearly 14 rallies and multiple roadshows, he also made an effort to woo Bengali voters with carefully choreographed boat ride in the Hooghly, a token kick in a football game and a bite of jhal-muri. If these were not enough, home minister Amit Shah camped in West Bengal for several days before the final phase of polling on April 29. The Opposition cried foul as the Enforcement Directorate intensified raids across West Bengal during the elections. The ED conducted multiple searches in Kolkata, Silig-

uri, Burdwan and Habra, primarily targeting TMC-linked functionaries and candidates. In another first, the EC ordered a repoll in 15 booths following reports of electoral malpractices. To top it all, West Bengal witnessed record high historic voter turnouts since Independence. The overall turnout across two phases was approximately 93 per cent. On April 29, four exit polls (Matrize, P-Marq, Praja Poll and Poll Diary) predicted a big win for the BJP in West Bengal, while two others (People's Pulse, Janmat) gave a clear edge to chief minister Mamata Banerjee and her TMC. Another exit poll (JVC) predicted a close contest between the TMC and the BJP. On Saturday, however,

the TMC filed a complaint with the Election Commission alleging unauthorised sorting of postal ballot covers at an EVM strongroom in Kolkata. TMC workers camping outside the Khudiram Anushilan Kendra alleged that eight trunks of postal ballots were brought in at 4 am and taken to a room with no CCTV coverage. Late on Saturday evening, in another unprecedented move, the EC announced repolling in all 285 polling stations in the Falta Assembly constituency, reportedly a TMC bastion. With the exit polls offering mixed signals and close contests predicted in several constituencies, Tamil Nadu awaits a verdict that could either reinforce continuity or mark the beginning of a crucial political realignment. While most surveys indicate that the DMK-led alliance may retain power, though with a smaller margin, the biggest surprise appears to be the emergence of actor-turned-politician Vijay's TVK.

Trump Says US Could Restart Iran Strikes 'If They Misbehave'

Trump has said repeatedly that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon and said on Friday he was not satisfied with the latest Iranian proposal

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

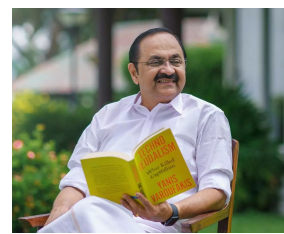
U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday he had been told about the concept of a deal with Iran, but was waiting for the exact wording, while warning there was still the possibility of restarting strikes on the country if Tehran misbehaves. A senior Iranian official said on Saturday that an Iranian proposal so far rejected by Trump would open shipping in the Strait of Hormuz and end the U.S. blockade of Iran while leaving talks on Iran's nuclear program for later. When asked about Iran's proposal before boarding a flight to Miami at West Palm Beach, Florida, Trump replied: "They told me about the concept of the deal. They're going to give me the exact wording now." He added on his social media channel that he could not imagine the proposals would be acceptable and that Iran had not paid a big enough price for what it had done. Asked if he might restart strikes on Iran, Trump re-



plied: "I don't want to say that. I mean, I can't tell that to a reporter. If they misbehave, if they do something bad, right now we'll see. But it's a possibility that could happen." Trump has said repeatedly that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon and said on Friday he was not satisfied with the latest Iranian proposal, while Iran's foreign minister said Tehran was ready for diplomacy if the U.S. changes its approach. Reuters and other news organizations reported over the past week that Tehran was proposing to reopen the strait before nuclear issues were resolved. The official confirmed that this new timeline had now been spelled out in a formal proposal conveyed to the United States through mediators. Trump also said on Fri-

day that "on a human basis," he did not prefer the military course of action and told congressional leaders he did not need their permission to extend the war beyond a deadline set by law for that day because the ceasefire had "terminated" hostilities. While saying repeatedly he is in no hurry, Trump is under domestic pressure to break Iran's hold on the strait, which has choked off 20% of the world's oil and gas supplies and pushed up U.S. gasoline prices. Trump's Republican Party faces the risk of a voter backlash over higher prices when the country votes in midterm congressional elections in November. Iranian media said Tehran's 14-point proposal included the withdrawal of U.S. forces from areas surrounding Iran, lifting the blockade, releasing Iran's frozen assets, payment of compensation, lifting sanctions and ending the war on all fronts, including Lebanon, as well as a new control mechanism for the strait.

Kerala Leaders Express Confidence Ahead of Election Results



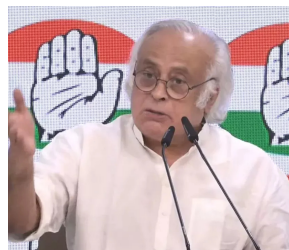
Political leaders and candidates across party lines on Sunday expressed confidence of the Kerala Assembly election results on May 4. Polling for the 140-member Assembly was held on April 9. Speaking to reporters, Kerala Minister P A Mohamed Riyas said the situation was favourable for the CPI(M)-led LDF across the state. Riyas, who is contesting against UDF-backed Independent P V Anvar from Beypore in Kozhikode district, said the front would secure a comfortable victory both in his constituency and state-wide.

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Modi Govt Rattled By Rahul's Great Nicobar Visit: Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Congress on Sunday flagged in detail concerns related to ecology, tribal rights, transparency and security, over the Great Nicobar project, and asserted that these considerations must be debated in a parliamentary forum. The opposition party claimed that the Modi government is "rattled" and in damage control mode after Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha



Rahul Gandhi's visit to Great Nicobar last week. In a statement, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "The Modi Government, clearly in damage control mode after the hugely impactful visit of the Leader of the

Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to Great Nicobar on April 28 2026, issued a press note on the Great Nicobar Island Development Project three days later." This press note does not address any of the serious concerns that have been raised on it by local affected communities, environmentalists, anthropologists, academics, civil society experts and other professionals, Ramesh said.

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Pre-Dawn Blaze After AC Blast Kills 9 In Delhi Building

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

A pre-dawn fire allegedly caused by an air-conditioner blast tore through a four-storey residential building in Vivek Vihar, killing nine people from two families and injuring several others, police said on Sunday. Central locking systems, thick iron grills at the back of the building, and a single staircase that served as the only internal escape route turned fatal when a mas-

According to the police, the blaze engulfed flats on the second, third and fourth floors of the building, prompting a large-scale rescue operation

sive fire tore through the building. Firefighters said evacuation was hampered by narrow access lanes and locked exits, including a terrace door and a staircase gate. The blaze was reported at 3.48 am and quickly spread across flats on the second, third and fourth floors, trapping residents

as smoke filled escape routes. With the electricity supply disrupted amid the fire, residents said centrally locked doors may have become difficult to open, while the lift became unusable. At the rear, thick iron grills and enclosed balconies further complicated the evacuation and rescue process, they added. "There is one central staircase which serves as both the entry and the

▶ CONTINUE ON | PAGE 4

Congress Hits Out at India's 157 Press Rank

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Congress on Sunday launched a sharp attack over the state of press freedom in India, citing the country's rank of 157 in the World Press Freedom Index 2026, falling into the "very serious" category. On World Press Freedom Day, the Congress said that a free press is the voice of democracy, but alleged that it is under attack. In a post on X, it expressed solidarity with journalists and voices that "speak truth to

power" and strive to protect democratic values. "A free press is the voice of democracy, but today that voice is under attack. India ranks 157 in the World Press Freedom Index 2026, falling into the 'very serious' category. On World Press Freedom Day, the Congress party stands firmly with every fearless voice that speaks truth to power and fights to protect democracy," the party wrote on X. May 3 acts as a reminder to governments of the need to respect their commitment.

ESTD 1960

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge baar baar aage

5 - 9 - 8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

Security Tightened at Strongrooms Ahead of Election Results

KOLKATA
Wakeup telangana

Security has been stepped up across Kolkata and other sensitive parts of West Bengal ahead of the Assembly election results, as authorities aim to ensure a peaceful and transparent counting process. With tensions running high, heavy deployment of police and central forces has been made outside strongrooms where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are stored. Key locations such as

Sakhawat Memorial Government Girls' High School in Bhabanipur and Netaji Indoor Stadium have been placed under tight surveillance. Multi-layered security arrangements, including CCTV monitoring and round-the-clock personnel presence, have been implemented to prevent any untoward incidents. Security has also been increased at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer to manage any potential unrest on counting day. The situation remains particu-



larly tense in the Falta Assembly constituency, where residents staged protests alleging threats and physical assaults by workers of the Trinamool Congress (TMC). Demonstrators, including several women,

voiced concerns about their safety and demanded immediate action against those allegedly involved in intimidation. Some claimed they were warned of serious consequences, including vi-

olence and destruction of homes, depending on the election outcome. In response to these complaints, the Election Commission of India has ordered repolling in all 285 polling stations, including auxiliary booths, in Falta. The repoll is scheduled to be held on May 21 between 7 AM and 6 PM, reflecting the gravity of the situation and the need to uphold electoral integrity. To maintain law and order, personnel from the Central Reserve Police

Force (CRPF) and the Rapid Action Force (RAF) have been deployed at key points. An armoured CRPF vehicle has also been stationed in the area as a precautionary measure. Polling for all 294 constituencies in West Bengal was conducted in two phases on April 23 and 29. Counting of votes will take place on May 4 under strict security, with authorities closely monitoring developments to prevent any disruptions.

High Applications For Houses Reflects BRS Failure: Ponguleti

The minister also attended a Praja Darbar at Thirumalayapalem in Khammam district.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Sunday stated that the sharp rise in applications for Indiramma housing reflects significant gaps left by welfare schemes under the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government. Addressing a Praja Darbar in Kusumanchi, Khammam district, he said the majority of petitions submitted by the public were related to housing under the Indiramma scheme and requests for new ration cards. Highlighting the Congress government's response, he said nearly 4.5 lakh houses have already been sanctioned in the



first phase after reviving the long-pending housing initiative. He added that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is expected to launch the second phase of the scheme in the last week of May, with an official date to be announced soon.

The minister attributed the surge in demand to what he described as neglect of welfare sectors by

the previous regime. He emphasized that housing and food security schemes were not adequately implemented earlier, forcing eligible beneficiaries to now come forward in large numbers seeking assistance.

On agricultural issues, Srinivas Reddy dismissed criticism from BRS, stating that the opposition lacked credibility. He al-

leged that during the previous government, farmers in Khammam were detained for staging protests and that paddy cultivation was actively discouraged. In contrast, he said, the current Congress government is supporting farmers through proactive measures, including a ₹500 per quintal bonus for fine rice varieties.

He further noted that crop loans worth ₹21,000 crore have been waived, benefiting around 25 lakh farmers across the state. Addressing ongoing land-related disputes, he assured that the government is taking steps to resolve such issues promptly to provide relief to affected farmers.

Pointing to strong agri-

cultural output this season, the minister said Telangana has recorded substantial production of paddy and maize. He assured that the government will procure the entire produce at Minimum Support Price (MSP), with payments being credited directly into farmers' bank accounts within a week. Additionally, Srinivas Reddy announced that a farm mechanisation programme involving the distribution of agricultural equipment will be held in Warangal from May 5 to 7, along with similar initiatives in other districts. He also participated in another Praja Darbar at Thirumalayapalem in Khammam district later in the day.

Nizam's Kin Backs Kohinoor Return From UK

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In the wake of New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani raising the issue of the Kohinoor diamond and formally placing a request with King Charles to return it to India, the Nizam's kin echoed the sentiment. It is argued that restoring the Kohinoor — now valued between US \$140 million (Rs 1,328 crore) and US \$400 million (Rs 3,796 crore) — to its land of origin would not erase history but be remembered as one of the greatest deeds.

In a media statement, Himayat Ali Mirza, great-grandson of Mir Osman Ali Khan, the seventh Nizam, urged the Union government to pursue the matter in view of the ongoing de-



bate. "When Zohran Mamdani can take up the matter with the British despite being an American citizen and Mayor of New York, then why can't the Indian authorities present their case forcefully? Everyone knows that the precious diamond was part of colonial plunder and remains in illegal possession in Britain. It's high time that Prime Minister Narendra Modi uses his good offices to influence the British gov-

ernment towards bringing back the Kohinoor," he said.

Mirza has submitted several petitions to the Union government for shifting the Nizam's 173-piece jewellery collection, including the Jacob diamond worth Rs 1,000 crore, to Hyderabad and exhibiting them in a special museum.

"Along with Jacob, if the Kohinoor — which originates from the Golconda mines — is displayed in Hyderabad, it would attract domestic and international tourists, adding to government revenue. As an Indian citizen, I wish these gems provide a glimpse of the glorious past to younger generations and contribute to the coffers of the government," he added.

Modi Trade Deal Sparks 'Compromised PM' Protests Row

Rows of IYC workers in the stands unfurled large letter cards spelling out the slogan twice over in full public view.

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Political tensions escalated as the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) intensified its "PM is compromised" campaign against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, linking it to the recent India-US trade agreement and resurfaced controversies surrounding disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein. The latest flashpoint came in Hyderabad, where IYC workers staged a provocative demonstration, continuing a series of protests targeting the Prime Minister over allegations of compromised national interests.

The campaign draws broader political momentum from the trade deal announced in early February, under which India agreed to purchase USD 500 billion worth of American goods over five years and halt Russian oil imports. In return, the United States reduced tariffs on Indian



goods from 25% to 18%. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi sharply criticised the agreement, accusing Modi of "surrendering on tariffs" and "selling the country."

The opposition has framed the deal as detrimental to India's economic sovereignty, fuelling aggressive street-level protests by its youth wing. Adding to the controversy are references to Epstein-related materials. Reports claimed that at least 16 files linked to Epstein disappeared from the US Justice Department's website, including a pho-

tograph allegedly featuring former US President Donald Trump. Earlier in January, the Centre had dismissed newly surfaced Epstein emails that purportedly hinted at Trump's involvement in facilitating Modi's 2017 Israel visit, calling them "trashy ruminations by a convicted criminal."

The Hyderabad protest follows earlier disruptive actions by the IYC. On February 20, party workers staged a shirtless demonstration inside the Global AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, raising similar slogans

against the Prime Minister. The protest led to legal consequences, with four individuals remanded to police custody by a court. Responding to the disruptions, Modi, during a public address in Meerut, accused the Congress of degrading international platforms with what he termed "dirty and naked politics."

The remarks signalled the government's strong pushback against the opposition's tactics. Despite criticism and arrests, the IYC remains defiant. Branding its cadre as "Rahul Gandhi's Babbar Sher," the organisation asserted it would continue confronting the Prime Minister across public forums with relentless questioning. With political rhetoric intensifying and protests expanding across cities, the controversy surrounding the trade deal and related allegations is poised to remain a key flashpoint in the ongoing political discourse.

Rain to Ease Telangana Heat from May 5

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday forecast rainfall and thunderstorms across Telangana between Tuesday and May 8, with a likely drop in the intense temperature during the prevailing heatwave. According to IMD Hyderabad, the maximum temperature was expected to fall by up to 3°C over the three days, though they will remain between 41°C and 44°C in most



districts for the next 48 hours.

Temperatures are likely to decline to between 36°C and 40°C on May 6 and 7 across districts. The

IMD has issued a heavy rainfall warning for isolated places in Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Warangal and Hanamkonda districts. A

thunderstorm alert with lightning and gusty winds has been issued for all districts on May 7. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at a few places till May 9, the bulletin said. Balkonda in Nizamabad district recorded the highest temperature of 45.8°C on Sunday. Other high readings included Mallapur (Jagityal) at 45.7°C, Palakurthy (Peddapalli) at 45.4°C, Bela (Adilabad) at 45.3°C, Kerameri (Kumaram Bheem) at 45.2°C and Bheemaram (Mancherial) at 45.1°C.

Ambedkar Legacy Call at Lothkunta Meet

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The 165th weekly Gna Mala Programme at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Statue on Sunday drew large participation from Ambedkarites, with a strong push to take B. R. Ambedkar's ideals to grassroots communities. Chief guest R. Ravi Kiran urged Bahujans to "carry Ambedkar's mission to every doorstep," stressing that safeguarding the Constitution



equals safeguarding India. Resolutions passed at the recent executive meeting focused on Constitution awareness, book

distribution on Ambedkar's life, and launching free training, skill workshops, and job melas at the resource centre. Advisor Ramesh Kamala also raised concern over a reported drop in SC population in Secunderabad Cantonment, calling for self-enumeration in the upcoming Census to protect rights and reservations. Several leaders and youth activists attended, reflecting growing community mobilisation.

800 Quintals Maize Destroyed in Suspected Arson



About 800 quintals of maize were reduced to ashes after unidentified persons allegedly set fire to the stock at Pathralapadu village in Chinthakani mandal of Khammam district on Sunday. According to police, the maize stock was stored at a corner of the Markfed maize procurement centre when the fire broke out in the evening. Fanned by strong winds, the flames spread rapidly, causing extensive damage. The fire also spread to a nearby private farm. Fire tenders from Khammam rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after considerable effort. The loss is estimated at around Rs 20 lakh. Based on a complaint lodged by Markfed officials, Chinthakani police have registered a case and launched an investigation to identify those responsible for the incident.

Two farmers die amid delays at paddy procurement centres in Telangana

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Two farmers died at different paddy procurement centres in Mahabubabad and Rangareddy districts on Sunday. While one farmer died due to lightning strike, the other is believed to have died due to sunstroke.

At Sudanapally village in Mahabubabad, 40-year-old farmer Neelam Venkanna collapsed in the paddy procurement centre after being struck by lightning in the evening.

Venkanna was hearing and speech impaired by birth. He had worked hard and cultivated paddy in



one-and-a-half acres and carried the stocks to the procurement centre. However, due to the delay in procurement, he was waiting for his turn at the centre, according to reports.

As there was a sudden downpour, Venkanna along with other farmers tried to cover the paddy stocks with tarpaulin covers at the procurement

centre. After lightning struck, he collapsed and was immediately shifted to a local hospital where doctors announced that he was brought dead, reports said.

In a similar incident, a tenant farmer M Gouraiah and his wife Venkatamma were waiting for their paddy stocks to be procured at Raipol IKP centre in Ibrahimpatnam constituency, Rangareddy district for the last four days. As officials pointed out the moisture content in the stocks, Gouraiah and his wife were drying the stocks at the IKP centre. They used to arrive at the procurement centre in the

morning and dry their stocks and leave in the evening.

However on Sunday evening, Gouraiah suddenly collapsed on the heaps of paddy at the centre. Locals believed that he could have died due to sunstroke, reports said.

At a procurement centre in Husnabad, Siddipet district, paddy and maize stocks got soaked due to the sudden downpour. The farmers have charged that since the past fortnight they have been making rounds to the procurement centre but officials were delaying the procurement, citing different reasons.

Dedicated DEE Sumathi Passes Away

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Ms. Ayancha (Lenkappally) Sumathi (50), Deputy Executive Engineer (DEE) in the Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, passed away on Sunday at 5:35 AM after prolonged illness. She had been undergoing treatment for two years and was hospitalized for the last eight days.

Serving at the Engineer-in-Chief Office in Erramanzil Colony, Khairatabad, Sumathi was known for her technical expertise, discipline, and commitment to timely work. She began her ca-



reer in the Roads & Buildings Department before continuing in the Panchayat Raj wing, earning respect from colleagues and senior officials. She is survived by her husband, also a DEE in the same department, and two children—a daughter working as an MBBS house surgeon and a son

pursuing B.Tech. A native of Andole constituency in Sangareddy district, she had professional associations across Medak and other regions. Her last rites were held in New Mirzalaguda, Hyderabad, attended by officials, colleagues, and well-wishers from multiple districts.

Retired Engineer-in-Chief A.G. Sanjeeva Rao and retired Executive Engineer G. Venumadhava Rao recalled her as sincere, punctual, and technically sound. Colleagues described her as a dedicated officer whose demise is a significant loss to the department.

Adequate Seed, Fertiliser Stocks Available For Kharif, Says Collector

District collector Rajarshi Shah on Sunday said adequate stocks of seeds and fertilisers are available for the upcoming kharif season in Adilabad district, assuring farmers that there is no need to panic. Addressing the media, the collector said 1,24,700 cotton seed packets and 900 quintals of soybean seeds were available in the district as of May 2. He added that seed companies are prepared to supply additional stocks based on demand.

He said cotton and soybean seeds would be fully available at fertiliser and seed outlets across the district within the next week. Providing details of fertiliser availability, Shah said 6,565 metric tonnes of urea, 381 metric tonnes of DAP and 13,759 metric tonnes of complex fertilisers are currently stocked in private shops and market yards. The collector said a control room has been set up at the agriculture office for the benefit of farmers. Farmers can contact the helpline at 8977742854 for information and assistance.

Scrap GO 7, It Betrays Students: KTR

GO 7 a Conspiracy to Scrap Fee Reimbursement, Alleges K.T. Rama Rao: Demands Immediate Rollback

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Sunday launched a sharp attack on the Congress government over its controversial GO 7, alleging that it is a “deliberate attempt” to dismantle the fee reimbursement scheme and deny higher education access to nearly 14 lakh students from marginalised communities.

In a strongly worded letter to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Rama Rao demanded immediate withdrawal of the order, release of pending dues worth ₹10,000 crore, and a public apology to students affected by the policy.

Placing the most critical concerns upfront, Rama Rao said GO 7 threatens the future of students belonging to BC, SC, ST, and Minority communities by weakening a



key welfare mechanism that has enabled access to higher education for economically weaker sections. He warned that failure to act could trigger statewide student protests led by the BRS.

Highlighting the impact, he stated that non-payment of dues over the past 30 months has pushed more than 2,500 higher educational institutions into crisis, with some forced to suspend operations. Students, he said, are unable to obtain certificates due to unpaid fees, further jeopardising their careers. He accused the govern-

ment of mismanagement in the education and welfare sectors, alleging that over 142 students had died in residential welfare institutions under the current regime, with several others hospitalised due to poor living conditions. He termed the situation a reflection of administrative failure.

Rama Rao also criticised the government’s approach of forming committees, making partial releases, and delaying payments instead of addressing the core issue. He further alleged that college managements demanding dues were sub-

jected to intimidation through vigilance raids and administrative pressure.

Recalling the origins of the fee reimbursement scheme under former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy and its expansion in Telangana under K. Chandrashekhara Rao, he questioned why the Congress government was weakening a programme it had once championed.

Casting doubt on the proposal to directly transfer funds to students’ bank accounts, he noted that no such disbursements had been made so far. He also raised concerns over the state’s rising debt of ₹3.75 lakh crore, questioning the lack of allocation for student welfare.

Reiterating his warning, Rama Rao said the BRS would mobilise students across the State if the government fails to revoke GO 7, holding it accountable for the consequences.

EC losing credibility: 250 civil society members jointly urge halting SIR

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

As many as 250 civil society members in states where Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls has been conducted or identified for phase 3 of the exercise, have jointly released an appeal asking for a stop to the process while a comprehensive review and corrections are carried out.

The civil society members, including at least 11 from Telangana, have flagged SIR as a “discriminatory, undemocratic, non-transparent and unscientific process” which has resulted in around 6 crore eligible voters across 10 states and three Union Territories losing their voting rights. Additionally, 35 lakh voters have been denied verification in West Bengal, they said.

Most of the affected groups include minorities,



Adivasis, Dalits, migrant workers, daily wage labourers, nomadic communities and women. Even prominent individuals like Amartya Sen, Admiral Arun Prakash and Mohammed Shami were reportedly issued notices, they said. “Since June 2025, the way SIR has been implemented has caused the Election Commission of India (ECI) to completely lose its credibility. It has also exposed itself as a biased institution in performing its constitutional duties under Article 324. Citizens across the country are expressing deep disappointment with the Supreme Court, which has so far failed to protect

voters’ rights,” the statement read.

“SIR has not only failed to provide a comprehensive voter list but has also revealed the questionable intentions of the ECI. It has failed in its stated aim of removing ‘illegal voters,’ and the decision-making process lacks transparency,” the statement added.

The civil society members have called for reforms in the ECI, alleging a lack of neutrality. They also demanded that a single transparent voter list be prepared, from the village level to Parliament level, and no elections proceed without including all eligible voters.

Heatwave Leaves Birds Collapsing Across Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A distress call from Begumpet a few days ago led a bird rescue team to an unusual sight—a peacock trapped inside an apartment, severely dehydrated and unable to fly. The bird, believed to have strayed from nearby deserted areas in search of water, was rescued and shifted to an animal shelter where it is currently undergoing treatment. Veterinary doctor Dr Vishva Chaitanya, who is supervising its care, confirmed that the peacock was in critical condition due to dehydration. The case reflects a growing trend across Hyderabad, where extreme summer temperatures are increasingly threatening bird life. Rescue teams report a sharp rise in similar incidents, with many birds collapsing mid-flight or being found immobile in residential areas. “Many birds are collapsing due to extreme heat and dehydration,” said a member of the Greater Hyderabad Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, underlining the severity of



the situation. In another instance, a female peacock aged around 2.5 to 3 years was discovered stranded on the second floor of an apartment, unable to move. According to coordinator Soudharm Bhandari, such cases are becoming more frequent, with all rescued birds requiring immediate fluid administration as part of emergency treatment. The impact is not limited to peacocks. Rescue teams have recently attended to multiple species, including three eagles—one of which succumbed despite efforts, while the other two were successfully rehabilitated and released into the wild. A hyena is also currently under med-

ical care. Bird species such as swifts, known for spending most of their lives airborne, are among the worst affected. Their delicate physiology makes treatment particularly challenging. “They are extremely sensitive and often require assisted feeding during recovery,” said Pradeep P., president of the Animal Warriors Conservation Society. Other commonly affected species include black-winged stilts, black kites, and crows, many of which are being rescued in large numbers as temperatures continue to soar. In response, animal welfare groups have initiated mitigation measures, including the distribution of free water bowls across various parts of the city.

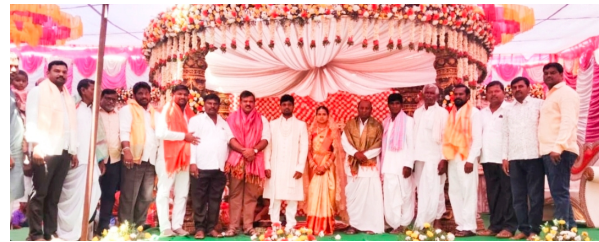
These efforts aim to provide accessible hydration points for birds struggling to survive the harsh summer conditions. Rescuers urge citizens to place water containers on balconies and terraces, emphasizing that small actions can make a significant difference in saving urban wildlife during the ongoing heatwave.

Festive Cheer in Regode Mandal Former MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran Blesses Newlyweds

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Former Andole MLA Chanti Kranthi Kiran brought festive cheer to Regode Mandal on Sunday by attending multiple wedding-related events as chief guest and blessing newlywed couples, drawing large participation from local leaders and residents.

He first took part in a traditional attire ceremony (Vastradharana Mahotsavam) organized under the leadership of former Dosapally village sarpanch Police Patolla Vijaya Lakshmi along with Gur-



unath Reddy. During the ceremony, he blessed Ch. Sridhar Reddy and Dhanushree, wishing them prosperity and a successful married life. Later, Kranthi Kiran attended the wedding ceremony of Shailaja and Pandari from Thimmapur village. The bride is the daughter of BRS senior leader and sarpanch candidate Ramakrishna Mudiraj. Addressing the gathering, he

conveyed his heartfelt wishes to the couple and their families. BRS leaders and party workers from across Regode Mandal attended both events in significant numbers, offering their greetings. The celebrations were marked by traditional rituals, cultural values, and a vibrant atmosphere, reflecting the strong community spirit and festive enthusiasm in the region.

Elim MB Church Concludes ‘Soldiers of Christ’ VBS

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Elim MB Church successfully concluded its VBS 2026 “Soldiers of Christ” program on Sunday evening, marking the end of a spiritually vibrant week for children and families. The closing ceremony featured prize distribution and a love feast, drawing enthusiastic participation from the community.

The week-long Vacation Bible School combined music, choreography, storytelling, quizzes, and art activities to create an en-



gaging faith-based learning environment.

A notable highlight this year was inter-generational participation, with church elders joining youth in classroom sessions, strengthening community bonds. VBS Superintendent Chaitanya Botti said the program helped participants “Ex-

plore Christ Alive” through immersive activities. Pastor Rev. G. K. Prasad credited the church committee’s meticulous planning for the program’s success, describing it as a meaningful and purposeful spiritual summer break for local students.

Silent Pro-BJP Wave Builds Across Key States as Alliance Eyes Decisive Mandate

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Bharatiya Janata Party and its alliance partners are witnessing a strong surge in support across West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and the union territory of Puducherry, with party leaders expressing confidence of a resounding electoral mandate driven by governance and development-focused policies. Kshetty Kumar, BJP senior leader and prominent go-rakshak, who recently campaigned in West Bengal for a week, indicated the presence of a significant yet understated voter shift. In his media statement, Kumar observed a “silent pro-BJP wave” across several constituencies. “The support on the ground is deeper than what is immediately visible. Voters are quietly aligning with the BJP’s vision, and this will reflect in the final outcome,” he said.

He credited the growing appeal to the leadership of Narendra Modi, emphasizing that firm governance and decisive policymaking have struck a chord with a broad spectrum of voters. According to Kumar, the Prime Minister’s uncom-



promising approach has attracted not only the youth but also intellectuals and diverse sections of society seeking stability and clear direction. Across the four regions, the BJP-led alliance has intensified its outreach, focusing on infrastructure expansion, welfare delivery, and economic opportunity. Political observers note that this consistent messaging has helped the coalition build credibility among both urban and rural electorates.

While West Bengal shows signs of a desire for administrative change, Assam continues to favor continuity in governance. In Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the alliance is steadily expanding its footprint by aligning regional priorities with national development goals. Kumar underscored that the coalition’s coordinated strategy and grassroots engagement have reinforced its position across communities.

Telangana First to Aid Families of Deceased Gig Workers

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In what is being described as a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, the Telangana government has extended financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of five gig and platform workers who died in road accidents while on duty, bringing the total payout to each bereaved family to Rs 15 lakh, including Rs 10 lakh from the respective platform companies.

The cheques were distributed to the families of five workers – Ahmed Bin Abdul Khader, a Swiggy delivery worker, G Shyam Sundar, an Uber bike taxi driver; Lokurthi Nares, a Zomato delivery worker, Garlapati Shashidhar Reddy, a taxi driver, and Daravath Mahesh, a



Blinkit delivery worker. Labour Minister G Vivek Venkataswamy credited the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union

(TGPWU) for making the initiative possible, noting that the union’s sustained follow-up with the Chief Minister’s Office and the Labour Department had pushed the matter to resolution. TGPWU founder president Shaik Salauddin, who had been pressing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the Labour Minister on the issue of social security for gig workers, called the development a historic victory. “This reflects the Telangana government’s commitment towards the welfare and dignity of workers in the digital economy,” he said.

He added that the TGPWU would continue its push for comprehensive social security, accident insurance and legal protections for all gig and platform workers in the country.

Unseasonal Rains in Mahbubabad, Warangal Districts Damage Crops

WARANGAL
Wakeup telangana

Heavy unseasonal rains accompanied by high-velocity winds destroyed crops and caused heavy losses to farmers across Mahbubabad district and some parts of Warangal district on Sunday. Paddy and maize stocks piled up at various IKP procurement centres and markets got soaked in the sudden downpour that caught farmers off guard, leaving them in deep distress. The situation turned particularly grim in Nellikuduru in Mahbubabad district



and Nekkonda mandal in Warangal district. Farmers at the Nekkonda Agricultural Market lamented that their produce, which had been drying for nearly a month, either got washed away or turned into sod-

den heaps. “We work hard during the entire season only to see our harvest go to waste just before it is sold,” a farmer lamented. Farmers have requested the government to intervene immediately and procure their damaged grain to save them from financial ruin. The storm caused significant disruption in Mahabubabad town. Strong winds blew away tin roofs and wooden beams from shops near Kesamudram Road and the local bus depot. The debris fell onto the main road, completely halting traffic and posing

a threat to commuters. Responding swiftly, Mahbubabad police led by circle inspector Anjali, traffic sub-inspector Arun and Town SI Shakir supervised clearance of the debris and restored traffic. District SP P. Sabharish commended the officers for their prompt response. The SP has advised that in case such incidents recur, citizens must remain indoors and avoid standing near old buildings, temporary sheds, or hoardings. Motorists have been advised to drive slowly and stay away from downed power lines.

CBI Nabs Kamlesh Parekh After UAE Extradition In Rs 2,672 Cr Bank Fraud Case

The CBI has arrested Kamlesh Parekh, a fugitive wanted in a 10-year-old Rs 2,672 crore bank fraud case, after his extradition from the UAE, officials said on Saturday. Parekh, wanted in the bank fraud case filed against Shree Ganesh Jewellery House (I) Ltd, Kolkata, was extradited from the UAE on Friday, they said. The CBI had registered the case in 2016 against the company and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of 25 banks to the tune of Rs 2,672 crore. "The agency had chargesheeted Parekh, the promoter of the company who had been absconding since the probe began, on December 31, 2022," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement. "An open-ended non-bailable warrant was issued against him in 2019, while a Red Corner Notice was issued through Interpol in 2024. The authorities in the UAE detained him on the basis of the said notice after which he was extradited to India," the statement said.

As Yamuna Chokes, Political Heat Rises In Mathura Ahead Of 2027 UP Elections

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The deteriorating condition of the Yamuna river is fast emerging as a key political issue in Mathura ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, with opposition parties sharpening their attack and the ruling BJP citing ongoing clean-up measures. Recent February 2026 data from the State Pollution Control Board has flagged alarming pollution levels at key sites such as Kesi Ghat, Vishram Ghat and Gokul Barrage.

K P Singh of the Biodiversity Research and Development Society, who analysed the samples using official data, said, "While basic parameters such as temperature and pH remain within acceptable limits, several critical pollution indicators are far beyond safe standards." He said high levels of turbidity, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) across all three sites reflect "significant organic pollution in the river".



According to the analysis, Vishram Ghat recorded the highest turbidity and bacterial contamination, making it the most polluted site, while Gokul Barrage showed relatively better dissolved oxygen but the highest organic load. Kesi Ghat exhibited moderately high pollution levels. The report also found extremely high concentrations of total and fecal coliform bacteria at all locations, indicating severe sewage contamination.

Experts said such conditions make the water unsafe for human consumption and even risky for bathing without proper treatment, while

posing a threat to aquatic biodiversity, allowing only pollution-tolerant species to survive. The findings further noted that the water quality has remained in Category 'D' - fit only for aquatic life - in December 2025, January 2026 and February 2026. The report attributed the decline to untreated sewage discharge, increased human activity along the ghats and inadequate wastewater management systems.

Environmental activist and first petitioner in the Yamuna Action Plan, Gopeshwar Nath Chaturvedi, blamed the "lacklustre attitude" of executing agencies despite multiple

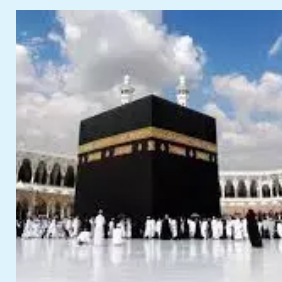
court orders and policies. "One can see the toxic form on the other side of the Gokul Barrage on the Yamuna River," Chaturvedi said. He added, "Industries like brass polishing and Todiya work use highly toxic chemicals like cyanide as a cleaning agent. The untreated water is then freely disposed of in the river." "Sewage treatment plants are designed to treat sewage and not chemicals," he said, adding, "Treatment of chemical-laden river water with chlorine and alum, for drinking, is a futile practice, given both chlorine and alum's inability to treat chemicals." Chaturvedi also demanded strict enforcement, saying no overflow should be allowed from sewage treatment plants where drains are connected to pumping stations. Pollution Control Board official Pankaj Yadav said, "While the Yamuna water is fit for aquatic life, it is unfit for drinking without treatment. The foam on the other side of the Gokul barrage is primarily caused.

Congress Seeks Rollback Of Rs 10,000 Haj 2026 Airfare Hike

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

The Congress on Sunday demanded the withdrawal of a circular issued by the Haj Committee of India increasing airfare for Haj 2026 pilgrims by about Rs 10,000, alleging that the cost of the pilgrimage has risen sharply in recent years. The revision follows a decision approved by the ministry of minority affairs citing a rise in Aviation Turbine Fuel prices linked to the ongoing crisis in the Middle East. The ministry said the hike had been limited after discussions with airlines.

According to the April 28 circular, the revised fare includes an additional charge of \$100 per pilgrim across embarkation points. It stated that airlines had sought an increase of over \$400 due to higher fuel costs,



and the government intervened to restrict the burden. Pilgrims have been asked to deposit the additional amount by May 15. Congress MP and general secretary Syed Naseer Hussain said the demand was made without prior notice or consultation despite pilgrims having already paid in instalments.

He said many pilgrims are elderly and some have already reached Saudi Arabia, making the additional payment difficult. He alleged administrative lapses and said pilgrims were being treated as a source of

revenue. Hussain also claimed that government-arranged Haj packages have become significantly costlier in recent years compared to private travel options. He questioned the rationale for the hike, noting the government's position that the broader energy sector remains stable. He attributed the issue to lack of competitive tendering and absence of a price stabilisation mechanism, and compared it with previous administrations. The Congress sought withdrawal of the circular, refund of the additional amount collected and structural reforms, including a price stability framework ahead of the 2027 season. The ministry of minority affairs defended the arrangements, citing feedback from pilgrims in Saudi Arabia and reiterating its commitment to ensuring a smooth pilgrimage.

Kashmir's Heartbeat Unites Against the Shadow of Drugs

SRINAGAR
Wakeup telangana

Lal Chowk—Srinagar's historic and symbolic city centre—transformed on Sunday into a sea of determination as thousands of people converged to take a solemn pledge to defend their homeland from the creeping menace of drug abuse. The iconic square, long a witness to the Valley's political and cultural tides, echoed with a different kind of resolve this time—a collective vow to protect the youth of Jammu and Kashmir from a crisis threatening to hollow out its future. Banners fluttered like warnings in the wind, placards carried by students, elders and women proclaimed a shared promise, and flags rose high as if to shield the Valley from becoming a graveyard of lost dreams. The message was unmistakable: Kashmir will not surrender its children to addiction. The day had begun with a powerful padyatra from the TRC Football Grounds—a foot march that felt less like a procession and more like a



people's awakening. It marked a turning point in the Union Territory's unprecedented, community-driven response to a growing narcotics crisis that has seeped into homes, schools and neighbourhoods. Recognising drug abuse as not just a law-and-order challenge but a profound social emergency, the J&K administration on April 11 launched a 100-day mass movement to mobilise every layer of society. The aim is clear—to confront, contain and ultimately eradicate the narcotics threat that has already destroyed thousands of young lives. Addressing the gathering before leading the march to Lal Chowk, Lieutenant

Governor Manoj Sinha described drug trafficking as a form of "silent terrorism"—a calculated assault on the youth, families and future of J&K. He declared that drug peddlers are enemies of the nation and will be dealt with accordingly. In just 22 days, he said, the anti-drug campaign has evolved into a true Jan Andolan, a people's movement that now pulses through every mohalla, every lane and every household where addiction has drained vitality and hope.

The oath taken at Lal Chowk, Sinha emphasised, is not symbolic. It carries the weight of parents' anguish, teachers' concern and society's collective grief over young

lives slipping away. "This is not just a government pledge," he said. "It is the resolve of every mother, every father and every teacher. People have declared—bohat hua, ab aur nahi hoga (Enough is enough, it will not happen anymore).

He recounted his visits to eight districts of Jammu division, where a single message echoed everywhere—We want our children back. We want our future back. Standing in the Kashmiri capital, he vowed that this future will be reclaimed at any cost. The Lt. Governor also underscored the grave security dimension of the crisis. Drug trafficking, he said, is intertwined with terrorism, with networks across the border using narcotics money to fund violence and procure weapons. These narco networks, he warned, are targeting the most creative and productive segment of society—its youth—seeking to weaken families, corrode the economy and erode moral foundations. Yet, he affirmed, their designs will not be allowed to succeed.

Rubio to Visit Vatican, Rome After Trump Row

ROME
Wakeup telangana

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will visit Rome and the Vatican this week, an Italian government source said Sunday, just weeks after a clash between Donald Trump and Pope Leo. Rubio, who is a Catholic, is expected to meet Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin and Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani, the source told AFP. Italian media reported that he would also meet Defence Minister



Guido Crosetto during the Thursday-Friday visit. The meetings come several weeks after US President Trump's extraordinary criticism of Pope Leo XIV over the Catholic leader's anti-war rhetoric. Trump also dismissed Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni -- one of his closest Euro-

pean allies -- as lacking courage after she defended the US pontiff. Italian media on Sunday presented Rubio's visit as a meeting to "thaw" relations. Since taking over as leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics on May 8, 2025, following the death of Pope Francis, Leo has criticised the Trump administration's crackdown on immigration.

But it was his increasing anti-war rhetoric, particularly following the US-Israeli attack on Iran, that

triggered Trump's ire. Leo on April 7 declared Trump's threat to destroy Iran "unacceptable" and urged Americans to demand that US lawmakers "work for peace". The US president subsequently slammed the pontiff in a social media post as "WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy". Trump also said he was "not a big fan of Pope Leo" and that he does not "want a pope who thinks it's OK for Iran to have a nuclear weapon."

India, Cambodia to Start Joint Drill CINBAX-II

NEW DELHI
Wakeup telangana

Armies of India and Cambodia will begin a two-week joint military exercise, Exercise CINBAX-II, in Cambodia from Monday, the defence ministry said. The exercise will be held in Kampong Speu province and comes amid evolving global security challenges, the ministry said. The Indian Army contingent comprises 120 personnel, largely from a battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment, while the



Royal Cambodian Army has deployed 160 personnel.

"The joint exercise will be aligned with the current dynamics of counter-terrorism operations encountered by the peace-

keeping forces during the UN peacekeeping operation," the ministry said. It added, "This aim will be achieved through various practical and comprehensive discussions as well as tactical exercises, leading

to a comprehensive validation exercise." Specialised training, including drone operations, mortar handling and sniper tactics, will form part of the exercise. "The primary objective is to enhance interoperability, coordination and operational synergy between the contingents of both nations," the ministry said. It said the exercise would facilitate exchange of best practices and operational experience while showcasing the capabilities of both countries in maintaining global peace.

FROM FRONT PAGE

Pre-Dawn Blaze.....

A pre-dawn fire allegedly caused by an air-conditioner blast tore through a four-storey residential building in Vivek Vihar, killing nine people from two families and injuring several others, police said on Sunday. Central locking systems, thick iron grills at the back of the building, and a single staircase that served as the only internal escape route turned fatal when a massive fire tore through the building. Firefighters said evacuation was hampered by narrow access lanes and locked exits, including a terrace door and a staircase gate. The blaze was reported at 3.48 am and quickly spread across flats on the second, third and fourth floors, trapping residents as smoke filled

escape routes. With the electricity supply disrupted amid the fire, residents said centrally locked doors may have become difficult to open, while the lift became unusable. At the rear, thick iron grills and enclosed balconies further complicated the evacuation and rescue process, they added.

"There is one central staircase which serves as both the entry and the exit. The rear side gate was covered with a grill, which we had to cut using tools," a firefighter involved in the operation said. He added that to rescue around 15 people, the team deployed ladders from different sides and used a turntable ladder vehicle. The building had parking space on the ground floor, eight flats above it with four each on the front and

back sides, a lift adjacent to the staircase, servant quarters, and a narrow rear gate opening into a cramped back lane lined with adjoining structures and overhead wires.

Modi Govt Rattled.....

"These concerns had already been conveyed in detail by me to the Union Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change on September 10, 2024 and in a follow-up on September 27, 2024," the former environment minister said. During his visit to Great Nicobar, Gandhi last week alleged that the Great Nicobar project at Campbell Bay in Andaman and Nicobar Islands was "one of the biggest scams and gravest crimes against the natural and tribal heritage of

the country". The government on May 1 released a detailed statement with answers to FAQs (frequently asked questions). "The Great Nicobar Project is a strategic initiative to strengthen India's presence in the Andaman Sea. It seeks to balance port-led growth with calibrated environmental safeguards. Protection of indigenous communities remains central to its planning," the government statement had said. "The project combines strategic, economic, and ecological priorities. This ensures that development is sustainable, inclusive, and aligned with national interests," it had said. In his four-page detailed statement, Ramesh spelt out the key concerns over the Great Nicobar project.

Kerala Leaders.....

"There will be a good victory for the LDF in Beypore as well as across Kerala," he said. He claimed that the state had witnessed development, welfare measures, clean governance, and internal unity within the front during the LDF's 10-year tenure. "We did not merely make promises but implemented them. The government stood with the people on their issues. There were no communal riots. People have realised this and want the LDF to continue," he said. "There will be a good victory for the LDF in Beypore as well as across Kerala," he said. He claimed that the state had witnessed development, welfare measures, clean governance, and internal unity

within the front during the LDF's 10-year tenure. "We did not merely make promises but implemented them. The government stood with the people on their issues. There were no communal riots. People have realised this and want the LDF to continue," he said. Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly V D Satheesan, who was present in his constituency on Sunday, declined to comment and said he would speak after the results were announced. Former Union minister and BJP leader V Muralidharan, contesting from Kazhakkootam constituency, said feedback from voters indicated growing support for the BJP-led NDA. Muralidharan is in the fray against CPI(M) sitting MLA Kadakampally Surendran and Congress.

CRIME

Civic Loot Behind Closed Doors

THE UNBREAKABLE BOND: AMOH-SRP Nexus Defies Government Transfer Orders in Twin Circles

NIZAMABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a serious allegation of administrative defiance, a shadow network involving Assistant Medical Officers of Health (AMOHs) and Sanitary Related Personnel (SRPs) is reportedly continuing illegal collection practices in Sherlingampalli and Chandanagar circles, despite clear government orders limiting their powers. The issue has raised urgent concerns over revenue leakage and the effectiveness of recent reforms aimed at curbing corruption. According to sources, the government had recently restricted AMOHs to Birth & Death registration and Entomology duties, removing their authority over Trade and

Food Licensing. However, ground-level reports indicate that several officials have continued to exercise influence over these revenue-generating departments through informal channels.

Investigative inputs suggest the existence of a parallel system where unauthorized inspections are being conducted. Local businesses are allegedly pressured into paying "fees" for licenses and clearances that never reach the official accounts of the City Municipal Corporation (CMC). This has not only resulted in financial loss to the public exchequer but also created a climate of fear among small traders.

The role of SRPs is said to be crucial in sustain-

ing this system. Acting as intermediaries, they reportedly handle on-ground coordination, communication, and collection processes, effectively bypassing the new administrative boundaries set by the government. This "AMOH-SRP bond" has allowed the network to function smoothly despite policy changes.

Critics argue that such practices directly undermine the intent of the current administration, which had promised transparency and accountability. The continuation of these activities suggests gaps in enforcement and monitoring mechanisms within the municipal framework.

With evidence mounting, calls for a formal Vigilance Inquiry are

growing louder. Civic activists and stakeholders are urging the CMC Commissioner to take immediate action to investigate the allegations, identify those involved, and dismantle the alleged syndicate.

Officials believe that failure to act swiftly could weaken public trust in governance reforms and embolden similar networks elsewhere. Strengthening internal audits, enforcing departmental boundaries, and ensuring strict accountability are seen as crucial steps to address the issue. As the situation unfolds, the spotlight is firmly on the City Municipal Corporation to demonstrate its commitment to clean administration and safeguard public revenue from misuse.

Man held for murdering mother-in-law

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

CCTV footage played a crucial role in the arrest and judicial remand of a man who murdered his mother-in-law by smashing her head with a helmet while riding towards an isolated spot in Chengicherla.

The accused initially tried to mislead police and family members by claiming she had suffered a fits attack. A special team, including IT personnel of Medipally police, arrested Karu Snehit, 24, on Saturday and sent him to Cherlapally prison.

According to police, the incident occurred on April 29 evening following a quarrel between Snehit and his mother-in-law K. Aruna. Snehit complained to her against his wife Kavya at her house in RTC Colony, Chengicherla. Aruna cross-checked with Kavya and her sister, who accused Snehit of rude behaviour.

Angered that Aruna did not believe him, Snehit abused her over the phone that night. The following day, Snehit returned to Aruna's house, forced her onto his bike, and rode towards Chengicherla.

CCTV cameras captured him striking her head with a helmet while they were on the road. Aruna fell from the bike, said Medipally station house officer Ch. Shankaraiah.

He then took Aruna to a hospital where doctors referred her to another hospital in view of the severity of her injuries. She died at the second hospital while undergoing treatment. Snehit later phoned Kavya, claiming the matter was resolved and falsely stated Aruna had collapsed due to a fits attack. Kavya became suspicious and alerted the police.

Fake Number Plate Scam Busted, Two Held in Hyderabad

Hyderabad police have busted a fake number plate racket, arresting two individuals for tampering with a vehicle registration to evade traffic challans.

In Hyderabad, traffic and Kachiguda police identified the accused as Shaik Abbu Baba (41) and Shaik Rihaan (19), residents of Ramanthapur. Police said the duo altered the original number of a Hero Glamour bike to resemble another registered vehicle, causing wrongful challans to be issued to a Honda Activa owner in Kukatpally. A case has been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Motor Vehicles Act. Officials warned strict action, citing CCTV and ANPR surveillance tracking violations.

West Bengal Youth Arrested for Duping 500 Women of Rs 2 Cr Across Country

A 35-year-old man donned a bevy of identities — projecting himself as a lawyer or a doctor, or a film producer — to lure as many as 500 women across the country and fleeced them of Rs 2 crore.

Delhi southwest DCP Amit Goel said the accused, Anand Kumar, a resident of North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, operated with "a high level of sophistication", using fake profiles on social media, dating and matrimonial platforms to identify and target victims.

Plumber Held For Murder, Body Found Under Kitchen Platform

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Special teams of Neredmet police cracked a murder case with the arrest of a plumber who allegedly killed his co-worker five months ago and concealed the body beneath a kitchen platform. According to Malkajgiri DCP Ch. Sridhar, the accused Gavvala Malleth, a native of Siddipet district, had allegedly murdered mason Kanchi Venkat Ramulu on December 15 last year. The two had met at a la-

bour adda in HB Colony and consumed liquor together after failing to secure work.

During the drinking session, Venkat allegedly insulted Malleth, leading to an argument during which the accused hit the victim on the head with a rod, causing instant death.

Malleth then tied Venkat's hands, legs, and neck with a rope, concealed the body under a kitchen platform, and built a brick structure to cover it before fleeing. The offence came to light on March 4 when

the house owner, unable to contact Malleth since December, broke open the premises after noticing a foul smell. Police rushed to the scene with CLUES teams and exhumed skeletal remains.

Sridhar said the investigation was challenging as the victim had little contact with his family and no missing complaint was filed. Based on human intelligence and technical analysis, Malleth was traced and apprehended at JBS, Secunderabad.

Five armed men loot 1 kg gold in Karimnagar heist

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In a daring daylight dacoity, five armed persons opened fire and looted jewellery from PMJ jewellery shop in Jyothinagar here on Sunday morning. The dacoits fled with costly jewellery and four of the jewelry shop staff were injured in the incident. They were rushed to different hospitals.

According to police, while the staff of the shop took out jewellery from lockers for display, five motorcycle-borne burglars rushed to the shop on two bikes along with firearms

and barged into it. The incident occurred between 11 am and 11.11 am.

Initially, one accused posing as a customer entered the shop and enquired about 20 grams of gold chain. Later, two others came to the shop and asked the staff to show gold jewellery. Finally, the remaining two also entered the shop.

One among the last two pulled out a pistol and threatened the security guard at point blank range. Simultaneously, others also pulled out their weapons and threatened to shoot other staff. All the workers were

forced to sit on their knees in one spot. The accused opened fire when the staff tried to overpower the dacoits. As a result, four workers sustained injuries.

Later, dacoits filled the jewellery in a bag they had brought and fled from the spot. They used both Hindi and Telugu while conversing with each other. According to preliminary estimations, about 1 kg of gold was stolen in the heist.

While sales manager Mustaq sustained a bullet injury to his head, Madhukar got an injury to his stomach. Kamalakar and

security guard Rakesh were also injured. They are undergoing treatment in different hospitals.

Knowing about the incident, police along with the CLUES team rushed to the shop and began an investigation by examining the footage acquired from CCTV cameras fixed in the shop.

Police recovered four cartridges and one magazine from the spot. Besides pictures of the accused, the CCTV footage of the robbery was also released by the police. Commissioner of Police, Gautham Alam visited the shop and enquired.

EDITORIAL

HOW INDIA BUILT ITS SUCCESS STORY IN IMMUNISATION: NOW WORLD RELIES ON IT

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

In my years as a paediatrician, I have watched vaccines transform children's lives. A child who would once have been paralysed by polio, or killed by measles, now grows up healthy. That transformation did not happen by accident. It happened as India decided, decades ago, to build one of the world's most ambitious and resilient immunisation programmes, and then it kept building. What is less well known is that India now does the same for children far beyond its own borders. We are not just vaccinating India. We are vaccinating the world.

India is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume. It produces over 60 per cent of global vaccine supply. It meets 55-60 per cent of Unicef's vaccine needs, 99 pc of WHO's demand for DPT vaccines, and supplies over half the world's BCG vaccines. These are not abstract statistics. Behind every dose is a child somewhere in Africa, Asia or Latin America who will

not die of a preventable disease. Factories in Pune, Hyderabad and Chennai are producing vaccines that support public health systems across the world.

At home, the results are just as striking. Full immunisation coverage has increased to 93.5 pc nationally, a gain of nearly 30 percentage points in a decade. The programme reaches 2.6 crore infants and 2.9 crore pregnant women every year through over 1.3 crore immunisation sessions. Children who were once entirely missed by the system, the so-called zero-dose children, now account for just 0.06 pc of the number of children born each year. The number of children born in India each year exceeds the entire population of New Zealand and Australia combined. Even a one per cent gap here is hundreds of thousands of unprotected children.

The numbers tell only part of the story. I think of the children I used to see in the clinic who no longer arrive with vaccine-preventable conditions that used to be routine. Neonatal death

(within the first 27 days) has fallen from 26 to 19 per 1,000 live births since 2014. Under-five deaths have dropped from 45 to 31. India eliminated polio over 15 years ago and has eliminated maternal and neonatal tetanus too. These are not small achievements; but the result of an unbroken chain, including ASHA and district health workers who reach families in every corner of the country. Their work is the foundation on which everything else rests.

India is now looking ahead. It is advancing a malaria vaccine with the capacity to reach 100 million doses a year, priced under \$4 a dose, specifically to make it accessible to poorest countries. An indigenous dengue vaccine is in Phase 3 trials. These are not just domestic health priorities. They are part of India's broader role as the "pharmacy of the world", producing affordable vaccines. For a paediatrician, this is the most exciting development of our generation: the country that once struggled to vaccinate its own children is

now designing vaccines for children everywhere. Nothing demonstrated this more vividly than the Covid-19 pandemic. When the world desperately needed vaccines, it turned to India. The Serum Institute scaled up Covishield at breathtaking speed. Bharat Biotech developed Covaxin, the first indigenously-designed Covid vaccine, through domestic science developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

As India was vaccinating over a billion of its own people, it still managed to export more than 300 million doses globally. Of these, 52 million doses went through the COVAX alliance to low-income countries, and 15 million were gifted to neighbouring nations under the Vaccine Maitri initiative. India did not step back when the world needed it most. It stepped up. That is what "India for the world" looks like in practice. What often goes unrecognised is the quiet infrastructure that makes all of this possible.



AAP Slams Gas Price Hike

AAP Telangana Slams BJP Over Gas Price Hike, Calls It Economic Assault

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana unit of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has strongly condemned the recent hike in gas cylinder prices by the central government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), calling it a severe blow to common and middle-class citizens.

The party demanded an immediate rollback of the revised prices, which came into effect from May 1, stating that the decision has further intensified the financial burden on already struggling households. State Working President Burra Ramu Goud termed the price hike an "economic assault" on the public. He pointed out that the commercial gas cylinder price in Hyderabad has surged to ₹3,315, reflecting a steep increase of nearly ₹993. According to him, this sharp rise will have a devastating impact on



small businesses such as hotels, tiffin centers, and street vendors, many of whom operate on thin margins. He warned that the increase in operational costs could force several small establishments to either shut down or pass on the burden to customers. Goud further explained that the hike would trigger a chain reaction across sectors, especially in food and hospitality, leading to

an inevitable rise in food prices. This, he said, would ultimately place an additional burden on common citizens, making daily living more expensive. He criticized the government for what he described as a pattern of remaining silent on price hikes during election periods and implementing them afterward, accusing it of misleading the public for political gain. He also dismissed claims that domestic gas prices remain stable, stating that households are already reeling under previous hikes. He alleged that the gradual withdrawal of subsidies has made cooking gas increasingly unaffordable for poor and middle-class families.

According to him, such policies indicate that the government is prioritizing corporate interests over the welfare of ordinary citizens. "The BJP government stands for high taxes and rising prices," he remarked, adding that the current situation reflects

a broader failure in managing essential commodity prices. In this context, AAP has called upon citizens, traders, and small business owners to stage protests with placards during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Telangana on May 10. The party urged people to use the occasion to directly highlight their grievances and bring attention to the hardships caused by the price hike. The party also outlined three key demands: an immediate rollback of the increased gas prices, restoration of subsidies for poor and middle-class households, and concrete measures to control the rising cost of essential commodities. AAP warned that if the government fails to address these concerns, it will launch large-scale protests across Telangana, mobilizing people in every locality to expose what it described as the failures of the BJP-led central government.

CBIT Hosts Grand Finale of Voice of Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Grand Finale of Voice of Hyderabad – Chaitanya Spandana concluded on a high note at the Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, with outstanding performances from finalists across senior and junior categories.

In the senior category, Urjitha Patel emerged as the winner, followed by B. Likhila as runner-up and Damera Vikram as second runner-up. Special mentions were awarded to Mallela Varsha Sree, Sanjana Chinamuthevi, and Vishal Aryan Boorela. In the junior category, Archita Dhulipala secured the winner's title, while P. V. Sai Vedansh and K. V. S. S. Sahasra Prabha were named runner-up and second runner-up respectively. Special mentions went to Garimella Abhinaya



Radha, Vishant Koti, and Srihitha Chaturvedula. A total of 375 participants initially took part in the competition, undergoing three rigorous rounds before 42 finalists advanced to the grand finale.

The finalists impressed the judges with their communication skills, creativity, and strong sense of social awareness. The event was judged by an eminent panel including Karthik Kodakandla, Venu Srirangam, Deepthi Charan, and Vasantha Subbalakshmi, who commended the participants for their exceptional performances and high standards. CBIT

Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu lauded the efforts of faculty coordinators Dr. Kousthuba (EEE) and Dr. Vani (ECE) for successfully guiding the event. Dr. B. Linga Reddy, Director of Student Affairs, expressed gratitude to Dr. K. Jaganath Rao, Head of Civil Engineering, and Dr. S. Siva Priyanka, Assistant Director, IIC, for their continuous support.

The organising team of Chaitanya Spandana was also appreciated for its dedication and seamless execution of the event, which brought together talent, creativity, and purpose on a single platform.

OPEC+ agrees to oil output quota hike amid Hormuz blockade, Kuwait oil exports

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, OPEC+ countries have agreed in principle to raise oil output targets in June. Multiple reports say that seven OPEC+ countries have agreed to raise oil output targets by about 188,000 barrels per day next month. The output hike would rather be largely symbolic until Strait of Hormuz re-opens. This will be the

third consecutive monthly increase amid the geopolitical crisis and the departure of the UAE from the group. With the UAE leaving, OPEC+ includes 21 members, including Iran. However, only the seven nations (and the UAE) have been involved in monthly production decisions. Iran, also an OPEC+ member, has seen its own exports dwindle amid the blockade. Crude oil output from all OPEC+ members averaged 35.06 million bpd in



March, down 7.70 million bpd from February. Last

week, the UAE announced it was leaving the OPEC and OPEC+ cartels in what is seen as a major setback to the group of oil-exporting countries led by Saudi Arabia.

The UAE said the decision reflected its "long-term strategic and economic vision and evolving energy profile". The exit of the UAE is expected to weaken the oil cartel at a time when the Persian Gulf countries have taken a huge hit to their exports due to the clo-

sure of the Strait of Hormuz by an embattled Iran. The UAE accounts for around 15 per cent of the OPEC oil exports. Reports also surfaced that Kuwait exported zero barrels of crude oil in April, a situation not seen since the 1991 Iraqi occupation, due to blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Kuwait Petroleum Corp declared force majeure, impacting around 2 million barrels per day. The blockade has led to a complete disruption in Ku-

waiti exports. Meanwhile, oil prices dropped after reports said Iran proposed fresh talks with the United States using Pakistan as a mediator. West Texas Intermediate fell more than five per cent and dropped below \$100 per barrel. It later recovered to \$101.7. Brent crude also fell more than three per cent to \$106.98 before rising again to \$108.4.

Heavy Rush Marks Smooth NEET Exam Day



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A heavy rush of students was witnessed at NEET (UG) examination centres across Hyderabad and other parts of the Telugu states on Sunday, as the nationwide medical entrance test was conducted under tight security. Authorities ensured smooth and incident-free proceedings, with candidates arriving well ahead of schedule to complete verification formalities. Strict security protocols were implemented at all centres, including frisking and document checks, to prevent mal-

practice. Officials monitored the process closely, maintaining discipline and timely entry into examination halls.

Despite the large turnout, arrangements such as crowd management and seating were handled efficiently. Students, accompanied by anxious parents, gathered outside centres early in the day, reflecting the high stakes of the exam. Overall, the examination concluded peacefully, with officials expressing satisfaction over the seamless conduct of one of India's most competitive entrance tests.

Govt notifies 100 pc FDI in insurance sector under automatic route



MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

The Finance Ministry on Saturday notified 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector under the automatic route. While 100 per cent foreign investment will be allowed in insurance companies and intermediaries, including brokers, under the automatic route, the cap is 20 per cent for Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), said the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026.

The Parliament had passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (amendment of insurance laws) Bill, 2025, in December, 2025, paving the way for hiking the FDI cap in the insurance sector to 100 per cent under the automatic route, from 74 per cent earlier. Subsequently, after the President's assent, the Bill became law.

Ellipaya Karam Restaurant Opens in Gachibowli

Celebrities, Leaders Grace Grand Launch Event

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Bringing authentic Telugu "naatu" flavours closer to the city's food lovers, the popular food brand Ellipaya Karam has launched its new outlet in Gachibowli, adding a fresh culinary destination in the bustling IT corridor. The outlet was inaugurated in a grand ceremony by MP Etela Rajender and MLA Arekapudi Gandhi at Yellow Sapphire Hotels in Gachibowli. The event witnessed the presence of several political leaders and film personalities, turning the launch into a vibrant gathering. Actress K. Sudha, actors Madhu Damaraju, Mahesh Achanta, Shafi, and director Karthik Dandu were among the notable attendees who participated in the celebrations and sampled the restaurant's offerings. Speaking on the occasion, MP



Etela Rajender appreciated the initiative of bringing traditional and healthy Ellipaya Karam-based cuisine to urban consumers. He lauded the management for expanding the brand and offering authentic flavours to city residents. MLA Arekapudi Gandhi echoed similar sentiments, stating that introducing native-style food in a major IT hub like Gachibowli is commendable. He emphasized the health benefits associated with such traditional preparations and expressed hope that the restaurant would

maintain quality while serving nutritious food. He also congratulated the management for generating employment opportunities through their hospitality venture. Founder Ganga Viraj Kota and co-founder Sai Shri said the new outlet aims to blend traditional Telugu tastes with a modern dining experience.

They highlighted that the restaurant has been launched under Siddhi Vinayaka Food and Beverage Company with the vision of making regional flavours accessible in a fast-food

format. The menu features a wide range of dishes including Ellipaya Karam chicken fry, prawns ghee roast, and biryani, among other specialty items. The management stressed their commitment to hygiene, quality, and customer satisfaction, adding that catering services for various events will also be provided. Guests at the event expressed confidence that the Ellipaya Karam brand would continue to expand and cater to both youth and families with its unique offerings.

The festive atmosphere, marked by celebrity and enthusiastic locals, made the launch a memorable occasion. With the opening of this outlet, Gachibowli's food enthusiasts now have another destination to explore rich, traditional flavours presented in a contemporary style.

Bagmane Prime Office REIT ₹3,405 Crore IPO From May 5

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Bagmane Prime Office REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust), a Bengaluru-based commercial office REIT comprising business parks, has fixed a price band of ₹95 to ₹100 per unit for its ₹3,405 crore initial public offering (IPO), which opens on May 5.

The IPO comprises a fresh issue of units aggregating up to ₹2,390 crore by the REIT and an offer for sale of units aggregating up to ₹1,015 crore by BREP Asia III India Holding, an affiliate of Blackstone. The IPO will close on May 7, 2026.

Retail investors can bid for a minimum of 150 units and in multiples of 150 units thereafter. The sponsor of the REIT, Bagmane Realty and Infrastructure LLP—the holding entity of the Bagmane Group—is Bengaluru's largest pure-play Grade A+ office owner and developer.

The REIT's portfolio comprises six business parks with a total area of 20.3 million square feet. Its tenant base consists of approximately 89% global capability centres and foreign-headquartered multinational companies.

More Than Collaborators: Tanvi Singh Bhatia on IBTIDA Artists

Ek Mehfil, co-founder and curator, Tanvi Singh Bhatia, is reimagining the traditional mehfil as an immersive, multi-sensory cultural language rooted in depth and authenticity. From QISSA to ARCHIVAL Season 3, she speaks about creating spaces where audiences don't just watch—but belong, feel, and participate. From the very onset, IBTIDA was envisioned as a movement—one that seeks to redefine, revive, and restore culture. Over the years, through various seasons, we've explored this across multiple lenses, conversations, music and immersive cultural experiences. Each season has been shaped by both instinct and observation - some born out of pure emotion, others from gaps we recognized within the industry. There was a clear yearning for something more intimate, more meaningful - spaces where people could truly feel, not just attend. This journey has been built through many such defining moments, each one leading us to where we are today. IBTIDA is not just a series of experiences - it is a cultural movement. One that is



constantly trying to represent India in its truest, most honest form with music, textile, food and monuments and celebrating the India Story. The mehfil remains only one aspect of our eco system. At IBTIDA, it will always be depth over scale. Intimacy over grandeur of large sets; even after 7 years we try to keep the sanity of our values & beliefs from when we started. When the idea of IBTIDA was conceived, it came from a desire to move away from a culture of overconsumption. We live in a time of constant stimulation where attention spans are shrinking

and everything is available, all at once. In that noise, we felt something essential was being lost. Our IP was built as a response to that. It is about slowing down. About pausing. About returning to moments we've forgotten how to notice. At the same time, there is a deep responsibility we feel towards preserving the India Story/classical art forms/. Forgotten cuisines and monuments. We often say this that we might be the last generation that has direct access to this depth of knowledge, to these living legends. And if we don't create spaces where this is experi-

enced, understood and valued, it risks fading away, so we never feel the need to modernise or feel obligated. So IBTIDA becomes a bridge. Between generations. Between past and present. Between art and audience. We want to stay committed to that thought & belief & want to expand it deeper. Intimacy & Closeness is the core of IBTIDA, when we started the whole idea was moving away from larger formats, spectacles and over the years we managed to create that. IBTIDA has always believed in depth over scale & will continue to do so. And that's why intimacy is central to who we are. By moving away from scale and spectacle, and choosing closeness instead, we create room for something far more lasting - connection, understanding and memory. We consciously choose locations that carry history within them such as old havelis, textile stores, dilapidated mills - because these spaces already hold stories which creates scale but maintains the sanity of the core. Growth, for us, has never been about scale alone. It's been about building with intention and nurturing the community,

being mindful of the partners we bring in and shaping every element that contributes to what a cultural IP should stand for. That's what has allowed us to grow to cities & new audiences while still feeling rooted - expanding, yet remaining deeply aligned with who we are. The journey has taken its course and time but its with honest intent & maintaining the brand value. With Archival - Season 3 & Qissa what new story telling layers are you exploring with the mehfil format A conventional performance typically establishes a clear boundary between the stage and the audience, separating the performer from the observer. QISSA removes that line entirely. India holds one of the world's oldest storytelling traditions. These were never intended to be merely watched; they were meant to be inhabited. In QISSA, the story surrounds you. The narrator does not perform at the audience but rather transports them. Due to the intimacy of the space and the lack of physical distance - complemented by the sensory elements of fragrance, food and light.

Rashmika's birthday post for 13-year-old sister Shiman wins hearts online

MUMBAI
Wakeup telangana

Actress Rashmika Mandanna wished her little sister Shiman Mandanna with a lovely social media post as she turned 13 on Saturday. Giving her baby sister a big swishy hug on her special day, Rashmika wrote on the photo-sharing app, "Happiest 13 to you my sweets! 13 is fun so make sure you have fun while you are at it! I love you sweetie!! Biigggs-gesssstttt swiiisss-shhhhy hugs! The latest post of the 'Animal' actress also included some adorable pictures of her sister posing next to her birthday cake. We also see a close-up of her cake-smudge face. It must be noted that Rashmika and her sister have a massive age gap of 16 years. On more than one occasion, the 'Pushpa' actress has revealed that she sees Shiman as her own daughter. Shiman was recently captured attending Rashmika's wedding to actor Vijay Deverakonda in February this year in Udaipur. Talking about her professional commitments,



Rashmika will soon be seen leading Rawindra Palle's eagerly awaited action thriller "Mysaa". Recently, the team commenced a 15-day action schedule in Kerala. IANS had previously reported that Rashmika underwent rigorous training at an intensive stunt and combat bootcamp in Bangkok, Thailand, to perform in the sequences that were to be filmed during this action-packed schedule. According to the sources, 'The Girl-friend' actress trained for more than eight hours every day for "Mysaa" in Bangkok. Rashmika will be seen essaying the role of a tribal Gond girl in her

next. Along with Rashmika, the core cast of "Mysaa" further includes Eshwari Rao, Guru Somasundaram, and Rao Ramesh in pivotal roles, along with others. Over and above this, Rashmika will also be seen sharing the screen with Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon for the first time in the highly anticipated "Cocktail 2". Directed by Homi Adajania and produced by Dinesh Vijan under Maddock Films, the film is a sequel to the 2012 romantic comedy "Cocktail", starring Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, and Diana Penty as the lead.

Crucial dismissals cost Sunrisers Hyderabad the match, says Daniel Vettori

DENMARK
Wakeup telangana

Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori felt his team lost wickets at crucial junctures and the manner in which it happened had an impact as Kolkata Knight Riders scored an emphatic win at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Sunday. Speaking to the media after the match, Vettori, at the same time, credited KKR for a very good performance. "We lost the wickets of Head, Klaasen and Ishan at crucial junctures of the game," he said. "Yes, we were up against two classy spinners in Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine on a wicket which did hold up a bit more, probably because of the softness of the ball," Vettori said. Reflecting on Nitish Kumar Reddy's absence, the SRH head coach said that the all-rounder was sick for the last two days and that he did try his best by warming up before the game to play. "But it was obviously very difficult



for him to be out there. He is an incredibly crucial part of our combination," Vettori said. "Well, losing games is always hard and it is imperative for us to regain the winning momentum and in that context, the next game against Punjab Kings is a most important one for us," he said. On SRH bowling, Vettori said that the attack was up against quality batters who rotated the strike pretty well and it was incredibly difficult to defend such a small total (165). For his part, KKR's star batter of the evening Angkrish Raghuvanshi said he just wanted to live

in the moment when he walked out there in the middle after a splendid powerplay with Finn Allen hitting all around. "The pitch was the same in both the innings. So, we were ready to do whatever possible to win the game," he said. On Varun and Narine, Raghuvanshi said the former had a tough start and came back very strongly and it is almost impossible to hit him if he finds the rhythm. "And, well, Narine has been dominating for years and years, an amazing bowler, and we hope he keeps doing it," he said.

Gujarat Titans edge past Punjab Kings in last-over thriller

AHMEDABAD
Wakeup telangana

Sai Sudharsan's cool-headed 57, alongside the storm kicked up by pacers Mohammed Siraj, Jason Holder and Kagiso Rabada, carried Gujarat Titans to a last-over four-wicket victory over Punjab Kings in their IPL match here on Sunday. On a slightly slow pitch, the Titans needed a level-headed chase of 164, and Sudharsan did precisely that during his 41-ball knock. A similar innings from debutant Suryansh Shedge's energetic 57 had helped PBKS post 163 for nine despite Siraj (2/28) and Holder (4/24) reducing them to 47 for five in 8.4 overs. But it was Sudharsan's turn to stand on the winners' podium in the battle of half-centurions. The result meant GT stayed fifth in the table with 12 points, while PBKS maintained their top spot with 13



points. After skipper Shubman Gill fell early to Arshdeep Singh, Sudharsan took control of the chase and added 53 runs for the second wicket with Jos Buttler. Buttler (25) was the more dominant partner, hitting Marco Jansen and Xavier Bartlett for a six each, the second

one being an audacious scoop over the wicket-keeper. But the England batter could not clear the infield off Vyshak Vijayakumar, giving a catch to Shreyas Iyer. Sudharsan continued undeterred and reached his third fifty of this IPL season off 37 balls. The left-hander cele-

brated with a couple of fours off Yuzvendra Chahal but was caught on the ropes by Bartlett attempting a pull off Vyshak. The dismissal of Rahul Tewatia added drama to the contest, with GT needing 11 runs off the final over. Washington Sundar (40 not out, 23b) stayed long

enough to finish the match with a scooped six off Marcus Stoinis. Earlier, Shedge's 29-ball innings, instrumental in a 79-run alliance for the sixth wicket with Stoinis (40), helped Punjab recover from a precarious position. Shedge hammered Manav Suthar for 26 runs in the 14th over, reaching his fifty in just 24 balls, before edging Rabada (2/22) to Buttler. Siraj struck early, dismissing Priyansh Arya and Cooper Connolly off successive balls in the first over. Rabada then removed Prabhsimran Singh with a 152 kmph delivery. Holder followed up by dismissing Nehal Wadhara and skipper Shreyas Iyer, leaving PBKS in disarray. Marco Jansen made a couple of big hits in the final over off Rashid Khan to take Punjab past the 160-run mark.

Kavitha slams Telangana CM for exorbitant hike in private school fees

BRS Quthbullapur legislator K.P. Vivekanand Goud on Saturday said even after two and half years in power, the Congress remained focused on trying to fool the people instead of doing any work. Addressing a press conference, Vivekanand said that nearly 900 days had passed since the Congress came to power, but it had not kept any of the promises it had made to come to power. Sixty days of the 99-day 'Praja Palana — Pragathi Nivedika' campaign had passed, and the government had nothing to show for its work. "With tens of thousands of applications on grievances pending, and none attended to so far, the Pragathi Palana celebrations are nothing more than an exercise to prove its existence by the Congress," he said. The programme had not made any difference to the lives of people. The government had not even paused to review its promises, Vivekanand said. Instead of wasting time with such programmes, the government should focus on supply of drinking water, ensure proper distribution of Indiramma houses, and uninterrupted power supply, he said.

Pranahita Revival Tops Cabinet Meet Agenda

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

From the revival of the Pranahitha-Chevella scheme to employee welfare measures and infrastructure expansion, the Cabinet meeting to be chaired by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday has a wide-ranging agenda. The revival of the Pranahitha-Chevella project and initiating talks with the Maharashtra government for construction of the Tummidihatti barrage to 150 metres — an increase from the 148 metres agreed upon during the previous BRS regime — are among the major issues to be taken up.

The Cabinet is expected to deliberate on an action plan to clear ₹6,000 crore in pending dues of employees and retired staff



integrating operations between the two phases. The government plans to ground Metro Rail Phase-II (Part A and Part B) works within the next six months and achieve significant construction progress during the remaining two-and-a-half-year tenure of the Congress government. As the expansion is proposed as a joint venture between the Centre and the state, approval from the Union government will be required. Irrigation projects will figure prominently, with discussions on the future, technical aspects and required modifications to the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme (KLIS). The Cabinet is also expected to deliberate on the construction of the Tummidihatti barrage as part of the Pranahitha-

Chevella project, with proposals to divert water from Tummidihatti to Sri-pada Yellampalli. Four possible routes for this diversion are under consideration, and a final decision may be taken. The meeting is also likely to review steps to address issues and pending demands of employees and pensioners, including clearing dues within 100 days and examining the report of a study committee on the merger of RTC employees with the government. Welfare measures such as sanctioning new Aasara pensions, implementation of the Indiramma insurance scheme, and schemes for Telangana statehood movement activists based on committee recommendations are also expected to be discussed.

Sajjanar Advises Gau Rakshaks To Obey Law

V. C. Sajjanar urges legal compliance, warns against vigilantism

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

Ahead of Id-ul-Zuha, police commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Sunday laid down guidelines for 'go rakshak' (cow protection) organisations while assuring them of foolproof measures, including specialised check-posts at commissionerate borders, to prevent smuggling of cattle for slaughter. Sajjanar stressed that 'go rakshaks' must respect the legal process and immediately report information on illegal cattle transport to the police. Under no circumstances should individuals take the law into their own hands or resort to violence, he said. Strict instructions had been issued to register criminal cases against those posting provocative reels or videos on social media that could hurt religious sentiments or incite communal tension.



Volunteers were prohibited from joining police personnel at checkpoints and from photographing cattle or sharing suspect details on social media. Each organisation must appoint a representative and provide member contact details to the police. Volunteers must carry valid identity cards at all times. 'Go rakshaks' are forbidden from carrying weapons or sharp objects. Obstructing or chasing vehicles already in police custody will invite stringent legal action. Surveillance on illegal cattle transport without veterinary certification will

continue year-round. Citizens and organisations can provide information 24/7 via the Police Control Room at 8712661000. While responding positively to certain points raised by representatives, the commissioner urged all to act responsibly and cooperate with the department to ensure a peaceful festive season. The meeting was attended by senior officials Tafseer Iqbal, M. Srinivasulu, N. Swetha, zonal DCPs, additional DCPs, and representatives from organisations including Kolihetty Shiva Kumar of Yuga Tulasi Foundation; Deepak Singh of Go Rakshak Dal; A. Balakrishna of the Akhil Bharatiya Goseva Foundation; Jasraj Srisrimal from Bharatiya Prani Mitra Sangh; Srikanth of Bajrang Dal and B. Narasimha Murthy from the VHP.

GHMC notice to 14 outlets found violating food safety near schools, parks



HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Food Safety Wing of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) on Sunday, May 3, inspected 81 food establishments in areas frequented by children, including school premises, parks, food courts and bakeries, and issued 14 notices to operators found violating food safety norms. The drive was conducted as part of the 59th day of GHMC's ongoing 99-day action plan, with a specific focus on food outlets in and around child-frequented spaces, such as GHMC parks and play zones.

During the inspections, Food Safety Officers counselled food business operators (FBO) on hygiene and safety requirements, including proper labelling of packaged raw materials, correct storage and preservation of food articles and pest control measures and the records to be maintained in this regard.

Suspicious food samples were lifted from select establishments for laboratory analysis under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act. The 14 notices to be served on non-compliant operators carry strict instructions to fall in line with FSS norms, the GHMC said.

BJP Flays Police Action on DD Journalist

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

N. Ramchander Rao has strongly criticised the Congress-led Telangana government, accusing it of exhibiting an "emergency mindset" following reports that Telangana police visited the Ghaziabad residence of Ashok Shrivastava late on Saturday, coinciding with Press Freedom Day. Condemning the move, Rao described it as a direct "attack on press freedom and democratic dissent." He alleged that such ac-

tions reflect a broader pattern in the Congress party's history of suppressing voices that question authority. Drawing parallels with past events, Rao said, "From the First Amendment to the dark days of the Emergency, and now this intimidation of a senior journalist, the Congress has repeatedly shown its instinct to curb free voices—especially those of journalists." "Rao argued that the reported late-night police visit sends a disturbing signal to the media fraternity across the country.



According to him, the incident is not limited to an individual case but represents a wider attempt to create fear among journalists and discourage critical reporting. "This is not just about one journalist; it is a chilling message to the entire press community," he stated. The BJP leader further questioned the Congress party's moral authority to speak on issues related to the Constitution, democracy, and freedom of expression. He accused the party of hypocrisy, claiming that while it publicly advocates democratic values, its actions on the ground contradict those principles. Rao also termed the police action as a "symbol of Congress intolerance," asserting that it reflects a tendency to misuse state

machinery rather than uphold law and order impartially. He insisted that any attempt to intimidate journalists undermines democratic institutions and weakens public trust. The controversy has sparked political debate, with the BJP positioning the issue as a serious concern over media freedom, while raising broader questions about governance, dissent, and constitutional rights in Telangana.

Golconda Fort Gets Lightning Shield, 24x7 Watch



Golconda Fort is now better protected from lightning with the installation of two advanced technology conductors by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The hilltop fort, prone to lightning strikes, can now withstand strikes up to 120 metres. The 23-metre-high conductors will safeguard the upper areas, including the durbar hall. The works cost Rs 10 lakh. Acting on instructions from ASI superintendent archaeologist Dr Nihildas, similar conductors have been installed at Ramappa, Warangal Fort and Thousand Pillar Temple. Every corner of Golconda Fort is now under round-the-clock surveillance, with additional CCTV cameras covering all public movement, said Malleshwar, conservation assistant, ASI. To aid specially-abled visitors, a ramp has been built at the entrance. Solar-powered automatic lights have been fitted to improve security and ease night-time guarding. QR codes at 20 locations provide details of the fort's history, its builders and galleries, in Hindi, English and Telugu, through text and video.

Ministers Condemn Gold Showroom Heist

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

A shocking daylight robbery at a jewellery store in Karimnagar district has triggered widespread concern, with Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Telangana Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar strongly condemning the incident. The robbery took place on Sunday at PMJ Jewellery in Jyothi Nagar, where a gang of armed assailants executed a well-planned heist, injuring four staff members in the process. According to preliminary accounts, the attackers used a deceptive strategy to gain entry. One individual initially entered the store posing as a customer seeking a 20-gram gold chain. Shortly after, two more men joined him under the pretext of making purchases, followed by two additional accomplices. Once inside, the group—reportedly conversing in a mix of Te-



lugu and Hindi—suddenly drew firearms and attempted to loot the store. When the sales manager and staff resisted, the gang opened fire, creating panic before fleeing with stolen ornaments. The injured employees were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital, where doctors later confirmed that all four were out of danger. The timing of the robbery has raised serious questions, as it occurred just minutes after Bandi Sanjay concluded an official foundation stone-laying ceremony in the same locality, where police presence was reportedly high. After visiting the crime scene and interacting with the

victims, Sanjay stated that the attackers used a "clever ruse" and expressed confidence that the police would soon apprehend the culprits. Meanwhile, Ponnamp Prabhakar spoke with district collector Chitra Mishra and Police Commissioner Ghouse Alam, urging swift action. He called for the formation of special police teams to track down the gang. Later, IGP Chandrasekhar Reddy inspected the scene and reviewed the investigation. Police have since cordoned off the area and launched extensive searches using CCTV footage, intensifying efforts to identify and capture the suspects.

TGRERA Orders Refund of ₹23.63 Lakh for Flat Booked in 2010

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TGRERA) has directed Aliens Developer Pvt. Ltd. to pay ₹23.63 lakh with interest to a complainant who waited nearly 14 years for a flat that never materialised. The complainant booked a flat in the 'Space Station-1' project at Tallapur through an agreement of sale in 2010. Possession was due in 2011, with a nine-month grace period. He paid ₹14.71 lakh against the



total price of ₹42.49 lakh for a 1,412 sq. ft. unit, including undivided land share and car parking. However, the project stalled and the sale deed was cancelled in 2024. TGRERA ordered the developer to refund ₹32.60 lakh, of which ₹8.97 lakh has been paid. The balance ₹23.63 lakh must be settled within 45 days from April 22, 2026.

Betting Markets Back BJP in Bengal, DMK in TN

HYDERABAD
Wakeup telangana

The underground betting market appears to have decided that the BJP would win the knife-edge battle against the Trinamul Congress in West Bengal. Separate bets are being placed on which party would garner how many seats. On Sunday, even after the declaration of results, a textile merchant from Ghansi Bazaar, who's laid heavy stakes on a saffron surge, said: "BJP

will edge out Mamata this time — it's Modi's turn now." In Hyderabad's Old City, for a Rs.100 bet on the BJP in Bengal, punters stand to win Rs.140-Rs.150 (1.4-1.5x payout ratio, mirroring the 2-3x higher betting volume on the BJP versus the TMC). A punter betting Rs.100 on the TMC to win will harvest Rs.180-Rs.200 (1.8-2x ratio) if the party retains power, as fewer bettors chase the underdog. A Begum Bazaar trader

confided, "I've put Rs.100 on BJP — easy Rs.45-Rs.50 profit if they cross 150 seats. TMC feels riskier now." Traders from Rajasthan's Phalodi satta bazaar to the bustling lanes of Begum Bazaar, Feelkhana, Ghansi Bazaar, and Patel Market in Hyderabad are treating the five-state election results as a game for high-stakes speculation. From seat-wise projections to party

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